

Message Text

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TOKYO PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ, PP, FJ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PACIFIC
ISLANDS

1. VISIT OF NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINE TO NEW ZEALAND:
OPPOSITION LEADER BILL ROWLING HAS SENT A CABLE TO THE
PRESIDENT PROTESTING THE JANUARY 16 VISIT TO AUCKLAND
OF THE NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE, THE USS PINTADO.
ALTHOUGH THE FULL TEXT CABLE HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC,
ROWLING RELEASED ITS BASIC CONTENT TO THE PRESS. OUR
PRESS GUIDANCE (USED AT LEAST ONCE, WITH A NEW ZEALAND
NEWSMAN) IS TO DECLINE COMMENT, EXCEPT TO POINT OUT THAT
THE VISIT WAS OBVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERN-
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MENT. THERE WILL CLEARLY BE SOME DEMONSTRATIONS WHEN
THE VESSEL ARRIVES, BUT NO ONE EXPECTS MAJOR DIFFICULTIES.
WE WILL TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF A REPLY TO ROWLING WHEN
THE CABLE IS BUCKED OVER HERE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

2. DISPUTED ISLANDS: THE BRITISH IN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE
HAVE CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO GIVE UP THEIR CLAIM TO

SOVEREIGNTY OVER CANTON, ENDERBURY AND HULL ISLANDS.
DOD WOULD NOW BE SATISFIED IF THE BRITISH AND GILBERTS
COULD AGREE TO SIMPLY KEEP IN FORCE THE PRESENT AGREEMENT
WE HAVE WITH THE UK ON OUR PRESENCE ON CANTON, WHICH
IS TO RUN OUT IN 1980. WE WILL PUT THIS APPROACH TO THE
BRITISH AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE GILBERTS WHEN HE
ARRIVES HERE ON JANUARY 24.

3. NIXON'S ONE-DAY VISIT: AUSTRALIAN MINISTER
OF TRANSPORT PETER NIXON WILL MAKE A ONE-DAY VISIT TO
WASHINGTON, JAN. 27. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE
STOPOVER IS TO RENEW ACQUAINTANCES WITH BROCK ADAMS
AND TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF DEREGULATION IN AMERICAN
DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION. NIXON HOWEVER IS EXPECTED
TO RAISE OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS GOA SUPPORT FOR THE
US ALL-WEATHER MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM, AND GOA
RESISTANCE TO GRANTING CONTINENTAL AIRLINES LANDING
RIGHTS.

WHILE MOST OF THE DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT
CAB AND DOT THE EMBASSY
HAS INVITED KATZ AND HOLBROOKE TO A SMALL WORKING LUNCH.

4. "WE HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY DISCONNECTED" : IN
THE EARLY MORNING OF JAN. 10 GUY WIRES ANCHORING THE
US NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS UNIT'S ANTENNA TOWER IN
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CHRISTCHURCH WERE CUT, TOPPLING THE TOWER AND CAUSING
UP TO \$44,000 DAMAGE. THE ANTENNA IS USED FOR
COMMUNICATIONS WITH OPERATION DEEPFREEZE IN THE
ANTARCTIC. PRESUMABLY, THE ANTENNA DAMAGE WAS DONE
TO PROTEST THE JAN. 16-22 AUCKLAND VISIT. THE
NUCLEAR SUBMARINE USS PINTADO. THE TOWER WAS PREVIOUSLY
FELLED IN AUGUST, 1976, JUST BEFORE THE VISIT OF THE
THE NUCLEAR CRUISER USS TRUXTON. AFTER THE PREVIOUS
INCIDENT, THE GNZ REPLACED THE TOWER. THE EMBASSY
HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ACCEPT A SIMILAR OFFER FROM
THE GNZ, IF MADE, BUT NOT TO ASK FOR GNZ REPLACEMENT
AT THIS TIME. VANCE

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